



**Testimony of Carrie Rand-Anastasiades**

**March 8, 2011**

**General Law Committee**

**HB 6355 Act Concerning Universal Product Coding and the Licensure of Food Manufacturing Establishments.**

Chairman Doyle and Chairman Taborsak and members of the General Law Committee, I would like to submit comment on sub section 4 of section 1 of HB 6355 An Act Concerning Universal Product Coding and the Licensure of Food Manufacturing Establishments.

Subsection 4 of Section 1 provides the retailer with an ability to work with the Department of Consumer Protection for installation of an alternative to the electronic shelf labeling law. Electronic shelf labeling can be very expensive and may not be the best pricing method, based on the supermarket's business model. This provision allows the retailer to invest in a different pricing system, which can be approved by the Commissioner, but also ensures that it is accurate and meets the standards of DCP. The primary concern is the consumer, and making sure they are indeed charged the correct price. The retailer pays to submit application to DCP (\$625.00) for this alternative system as well as an inspection fee to offset the costs. We feel that this is a fair one time fee.

Subsection 4 of Section 1 now makes the retailer pay the fee (\$625.00) **annually** instead of at the time of application. We feel this is not fair. Once the system is installed and is accurate, it is no different than other approved pricing mechanisms. The Department has to inspect all stores ensuring scanner accuracy, and no fee for inspection exists. Why should this be any different? We feel this new fee is discriminatory on those stores that use an alternative method of pricing and not necessary.

We are willing to work with the committee as well as the Department to streamline the inspection process or find a more equitable solution to the problem. If you have any questions please contact me. Thank you.